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Statement submitted by Smile Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08594 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

Introduction:

Children bear the brunt of extreme poverty. Around 400 million children in the world under the age of 13 live in extreme poverty. Building on the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals as a holistic sustainable evolution/extension should be an integrated agenda for economic, environmental and social solutions covering dignity, people, planet, partnership, justice and prosperity to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world, without distinction of any kind such as age, sex, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.

Smile Foundation has adopted a holistic approach of social development, like quality education for children, maternal and child healthcare, skill enhancement for youth and empowerment of women and girls to act as change agents and be the torch bearers for future generations.

Smile Foundation has a unique and innovative working model — Social Venture Philanthropy, based on venture capital towards ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity, including sharing that prosperity with future generations. The core idea behind this approach not only identifies and implements its development projects through credible grassroots community based organizations but also builds capacities of these organizations, focusing on achieving scalability and sustainability, creating a culture of leadership and excellence and inculcating a deep sense of accountability among them.

Sustainable development depends on the power of the new agenda to inspire and mobilize new and existing partnerships. Smile works in collaboration with different stakeholders like national and international corporate, institutions, local government bodies, etc. Currently, Smile is working with more than 200 grassroots community based organization partners in more than 800 remote villages and slums across 25 states of India and directly benefitting over 300,000 children and their families every year.

Smile Foundation believes that unless members of the civil society are involved proactively in the process of transition, sustainable development will not happen. Believing in this principle of 'Civic Driven Change', Smile sensitizes the civil society with special focus on children in order to make them partners in its mission. At Smile, we strongly believe that Social Venture Philanthropy partnership approach involves commitment of time and resources, which brings enormous impact on our nation's and the world's most challenging social problems in a culturally sensitive and institutionally effective manner.

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Statement submitted by Catholic Health Association of India, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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15-08595 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

India carries a tremendous responsibility towards achieving the transformative and universal Sustainable Development Goals with more than one-sixth of the world population and being a strong regional leader in South East Asia.

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals towards poverty reduction is uneven. Poverty alleviation programs require further impetus with expanded macro and micro-finance schemes. Hunger targets are on track for achievement and continued support of mid day meal programs in schools and anganwadis for mother and children must imperatively continue. The Public Distribution Scheme is robust and quality must be ensured providing good food for all.

Universal enrolment is lacking and in addition, the quality of education is lacking in certain arenas. Excluded groups belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes must be reached and not only accessibility, the entire ecosystem of a child to enrol and complete education must be strengthened with provision of nutrition, protection from child labor, access to toilets with special focus on the girl child to ensure gender parity. Gender violence remains an issue in both urban and rural areas, gender sensitivity training among law keepers, equivocal representation of women in the police force and emergency help lines are warranted.

While maternal mortality goals are on track, child health targets are off track. There is a major gap to achieve the global target of zero preventable child deaths. Shortages of health personnel need to be filled in and capacity building exercises need to be undertaken with use of electronic tracking systems. Universal health coverage needs to be expanded to reach vulnerable, hard to reach and tribal populations. Sanitation goals are far off track with more than half the population being forced for open defecation and the Swacha Bharat Abhiyaan is a step forward in this regard.

Sustainable energy is a new focus area in the sustainable development goals and with the large energy demands of the populations, alternative means of energy generation including solar energy need to be subsidized and popularized. This will also aid climate change mitigation. Strengthening global and bilateral strategic partnerships for technical and monetary aid is required.

To complete the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals require work towards ending deprivation in terms of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health, strengthening development drivers such as economic growth, industrialization, employment creation and reduction of inequality and use of sustainable technologies with intellectual exchange from developed countries. Good governance is a cross-cutting prerequisite to achieve this and ensure that no one is left behind with continuity in the achievement of goals in the post-2015 era.

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Statement submitted by Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08596 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil welcomes the transition from the Millennium Development Goals, which was a catalyst for its formation, to the upcoming sustainable development goals.

Similar to when the Millennium Development Goals were introduced, we foresee that governments, corporations, organizations and efforts will once again gravitate and align itself towards the sustainable development goals.

Many of the proposed sustainable development goals reflect our objectives of sustainable production of palm oil, thus making them shared goals. Among them include poverty alleviation, food security, water management, addressing climate change, managing forests, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and economic growth.

However, the one sustainable development goal that resonates best with us is in ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns and that is exactly what we have been striving to achieve since inception.

We are pleased to say that multi-stakeholder initiatives and commodity roundtables such as our organization have made significant progress and achieved a reasonable level of success. We have successfully forged tangible links between buyers and sellers in markets worldwide. We have effectively established a network between a kaleidoscope of stakeholders that are concerned, be it directly or indirectly, with the commodity of interest. We are now viewed upon as a credible avenue that is empowered and capable of delivering environmental, social and commercial outcomes.

All that being said, the journey is still long and there is still plenty more ground for us to cover before we can come close to achieving our shared goals.

For one, although stretched as far as possible, we have come to realize that our reach is still not long enough. Governments still play a crucial role in outreach to stakeholders, especially small farmers, so that they can effectively implement Good Agricultural Practices and embrace sustainability. There is also a need for governments to recognize the role they play in facilitating the flow of sustainable commodities through roundtable platforms such as ours. More importantly, there is a need to "Walk the Talk", which is why governments must look towards planning or considering to incorporate sustainability guidance in their own procurement activities.

Challenges aside, we will continuously and consistently create ripples in the marketplace that will bring about positive change in tandem to the sustainable development goals. However, if provided with the right platforms, opportunities and support from the United Nations, we will accelerate the current ongoing and upcoming efforts to achieve these shared goals in a shorter duration.

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Statement submitted by High Atlas Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08597 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

One critical sustainable development goal is the strengthening of the means by which nations can implement the overall sustainable development global vision. Is there proven methodology that nations can consider and adopt in this regard, even as the challenges and opportunities that they face are as diverse as humanity itself?

We suggest four specific factors that are applicable in this case:

(a) First, we know from decades of global project development evaluations that people's participation from design to evaluation is the primary factor determining whether sustainability will be achieved. In order to promote effective community participation, an administrative system that is decentralized will empower local populations to make decisions and assume responsibility for implementing the social change that they seek.

(b) A second necessary measure at the national level is capacity building among stakeholders to advance projects that achieve the development goals. Specifically, there is a critical role to be performed by facilitators of local community meetings and dialogue in order to promote participation. Trained facilitators help to ensure that all voices are represented and heard. Further, they are aware of pre-existing power relationships and how to navigate these so as to guide a development process in a manner that is broad-based and just.

(c) Third, it would be helpful if measures for sustainable implementation were described in culturally relative terms. For example, in Islam, shura is the concept of participation and consultation; ummah is the global integration of individuals and groups with rights to solidarities and part of humanity as a whole (decentralization); baya in Islamic tradition holds leaders accountable; and tawhidi society is one that recognizes the indivisibility of mankind. Having participation and decentralization explained in Islamic, rather than Western terms would allow Muslim people to see their own outlook and values fully present and incorporated in the steps needed to implement the goals.

(d) Finally, policy development embarked upon by nations in order to achieve the goals, occurs sustainably and most suitably as local participatory processes unfold and light is shed naturally upon policy opportunities that promote sustainable development. People's participation in a sense tests the social system. In this way, for example, restrictions to the growth of civil society are clarified and the necessary roles that could be played by public agencies, in order to bring to fruition projects determined by local communities, may be defined in greater detail. In sum, the most effective policy development emerges from lessons gained from the experience of community participation in development.

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Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08598 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

Soroptimist International welcomes an inclusive and human rights-based approach to the sustainable development goals. Those goals must be transformative and address the fundamental inequalities between people that continue to perpetuate discrimination. Non-governmental organizations and civil society have a vital role to play in raising awareness about the sustainable development goals, their implementation, their monitoring and evaluation, and in the development of effective programmes within communities that will ensure no one is left behind. Cooperative partnerships between non-governmental organizations, governments, the United Nations and other stakeholders including civil society are critical in achieving the goals and equality for all.

The Millennium Development Goals should be celebrated for laying the foundations of a progressive, transformative and inclusive development framework. The sustainable development goals need to further that legacy and ensure that no one is left behind. The ongoing multi-stakeholder consultation process surrounding the post-2015 agenda should be applauded and gives cause for optimism, but it can also be improved. It is critical that non-governmental organizations and civil society are not only consulted but also listened to and not merely co-opted into a development agenda that does not reflect the needs of the stakeholders non-governmental organizations represent. The specific role of non-governmental organizations, as accountable organisations who have developed expertise in implementing, monitoring and evaluating grassroots change, must be secured within the post-2015 agenda.

For the sustainable development agenda to be successful all stakeholders must have the ability to shape, influence and implement that agenda as well as build capacity. Civil society and non-governmental organizations can achieve transformational breakthroughs to achieve a sustainably developed world. They are also able to contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving the agenda. Therefore, partnerships between non-governmental organizations, civil society, governments and the United Nations at all stages of implementation, monitoring and evaluation are an integral part of sustainable development.

There is growing interest in initiatives that encourage public contribution to and engagements with sustainable development. It is critical that non-governmental organizations and civil society are involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development goals, including contributing to negotiations and discussions on targets and indicators. By better including non-governmental organizations and civil society in the development and implementation of the sustainable development agenda, it is possible to avoid many of the structural deficiencies that limited the success of the Millennium Development Goals.

Non-governmental organizations are well placed to:

(a) promote the successful implementation of the sustainable development goals;

(b) contribute to the achievement of targets;

(c) raise awareness about the sustainable development goals, especially amongst vulnerable and marginalised groups and remote communities;

(d) identify and better understand differing contexts, settings and approaches taken by communities to sustainable development;

(e) gather information for indicators and assess progress towards achieving agreed targets; and

(f) enable the empowerment of civil society to participate in sustainable development activities, and through those activities realise the human rights of individuals and promote economic and social development.

Current government capacity and resources are not enough to achieve the sustainable development goals. Non-governmental organizations are able to increase capacity through their networks and roll out sustainable development programmes effectively. They are the accountable organisations that will be able to implement the perspectives of civil society into sustainable development programmes. This involvement would enhance the legitimacy of programmes within communities and vulnerable and marginalised groups. Simply, the post-2015 agenda will not be achieved without the better inclusion of non-governmental organizations and civil society.

Therefore, non-governmental organizations and civil society must be involved in negotiations and in indicator and target decision-making processes. Non-governmental organizations are also able to specifically contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the sustainable development goals, and not just to their creation and implementation. Improved non-governmental organizations and civil society involvement would also promote successful cooperative partnerships between non-governmental organizations, governments and the United Nations that would be able to be target focussed.

Women and girls comprise the majority of people living in poverty, and experience persistent and multidimensional inequalities. Gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the full realisation of their human rights is critical to sustainable development and essential for poverty eradication. This is clearly stated in the Doha Declaration.

The means of implementing and financing the sustainable development goals is not gender-neutral. If and how financial resources are mobilised has clear implications for women's human rights and the achievement of gender equality; gender equality must be considered as a means to implement the sustainable development goals and as a critical policy measure for countries who want to achieve their full development potential. The sustainable development goals, Financing for Development and means of implementation cannot be considered separately from each other. Instead, a cohesive, integrated and complimentary approach must be agreed for the post-2015 development agenda to be successful.

Currently, there is no mention in the Financing for Development Zero Draft of dedicated resources to advance gender equality. This is unacceptable, and must be rectified in order to manage the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals. Financing for Development must reinforce the consideration that women and girls are at a higher risk of being left behind and reflect the essential need to better facilitate the inclusion of women and girls in

development. These principles and needs were clearly substantiated in the oral submission of the joint statement on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Financing for Development Zero Draft, 2nd drafting session, and should be supported and integrated into the means of implementation discussion.

Financing for Development must contribute to the achievement of social development and so requires unbiased monitoring and evaluation that prioritises citizens. Public-private partnerships should demonstrate competencies in contributing to the achievement of agreed sustainable and social development principles and goals as outlined in the Rio Declaration, the Copenhagen Declaration, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Public-private partnerships have the ability to benefit all, but they may also promote the outsourcing of social development to the private sector, with its own interests resulting in development programmes that do not prioritise the needs of vulnerable and marginalised people. Unbiased monitoring and evaluation is essential to promote full compliance with previously agreed declarations. Non-governmental organizations, as accountable stakeholder organisations, have a specific role to play in ensuring that financing for development mechanisms produce the results needed for an inclusive post-2015 agenda to be successful.

The sustainable development goals must take into account that certain groups, such as women and girls, are at a higher risk of being left behind. It should be recognised that civil society and non-governmental organizations, and especially feminist and women's organisations, have a role in preventing that from happening, and ensuring that women are equal participants in a sustainable development agenda as they are effective and implementing change at a grassroots level. The Millennium Development Goals galvanised the principle of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through development (Goal 3). The sustainable development goals must further that principle; women must be included at all levels of decision making regarding the Sustainable development goals and their implementation.

It must be noted that several critical issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, economic empowerment, eliminating violence against women and girls, and education, in accordance with the Rio Declaration, the Copenhagen Declaration and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The principles and actions outlined in these declarations must be integrated throughout the post-2015 agenda and addressed through the Sustainable development goals.

That the sustainable development goals are currently 'aspirational global targets' and can be adjusted for 'national circumstances', (Preamble paragraph 18) is of concern. Although it is important for policies to achieve sustainable development and for gender equality to be contextualised, culturally specific and tailored to communities, there is the potential for national agendas to dilute the strength and purpose of the sustainable development to the disadvantage of all. Unnecessary flexibility in the sustainable development goals could leave women and girls particularly vulnerable, as current disparities will continue, potentially be exacerbated, and progress will be negated.

The sustainable development goals must reaffirm and contribute to the fulfilment of commitments to achieving gender equality that have already been

agreed and ratified. Those commitments must also be integrated throughout the sustainable development goals in the form of human rights-based, gender sensitive approaches with proper monitoring and enforceable accountability mechanisms. Only if this is done will the Sustainable development goals be meaningful, achievable and effective.

A renewed focus on addressing the implementation, monitoring and financing of the sustainable development goals could create a set of goals which we can achieve together. It is the hope of Soroptimists that the sustainable development goals will promote the education, empowerment and enabling of women. Only then will women become equal participants and contributors to their communities and countries. Helping women and girls who are amongst the most vulnerable requires an integrated, gender sensitive approach and evidence-based responses. Implementation strategies provide an opportunity to involve civil society and affected groups in collaborative work and partnerships in order to promote the achievement of the sustainable Development Goals. This is what it will take to manage the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals.

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Statement submitted by Foundation for Responsible Media, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08599 (E) 180615

Please recycle

Statement

The transformation of Media is a revolution that the world was ill-prepared for. Social media has put mainstream media and storytellers into a spin as the norms and practices of traditional media are continuously challenged. In the din, the "first voice", the citizen's voice, is still not heard enough. Grass root news remains submerged.

Meanwhile, citizens of all hues are incessantly using social media in an inane and ad hoc manner. This sometimes results in events like the Arab Spring. It can turn equally ugly when unsubstantiated information or hate speech turn viral, echo and lead to violent mob hysteria.

The sustainable development goals are clearly linked to the Millennium Development Goals vision, which means development in its totality, as well as democracy and freedom of expression. If so, can the world move ahead without media and information empowered citizens? Can the sustainable development goals be achieved without such empowered citizens? We believe the answer to both is "No".

Media and Information Literacy among citizens in democratic societies — evolving or otherwise — has become a primary need to bridge gaps and build platforms for replication of best practice. With Media and Information Literacy citizens can actively participate in processes related to their lives and dreams.

We, at FORMEDIA with a university network, MILUNI, have taken some steps for Media and Information Literacy under a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-led initiative of the Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy, which includes:

(a) A national consultation for a nation-wide group of development stakeholders.

(b) Training a group of scholars at Uttarakhand Open University in a marginalised and disaster-prone state.

(c) A training of trainers for development stakeholders and senior academics.

(d) The training of trainers manual translated into Hindi, one of India's official languages.

One concrete way of linking Media and Information Literacy to the sustainable development goals is including entry-level Media and Information Literacy activities for target groups as a mandatory integrated component in United Nationa projects, like monitoring and evaluation.

Media and Information Literacy offers the possibility of making the sustainable development goals attainable. One of the fundamental reasons we have not achieved the Millennium Development Goals is because policymakers and development experts do not recognise the essential role that information and communication play in development. Let us not make the same mistake again.

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Statement submitted by Federación Española de Mujeres Directivas, Ejecutivas, Profesionales y Empresarias, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08600 (E) 180615

Please recycle

Statement

Since 1991 our work has focused on the improvement of opportunities for women in the Spanish economic and political context. We have become a reference in Spain in representing and defending the rights of professional, managerial and entrepreneur women.

Within the social diagnosis and tools aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals on equal opportunities, we brings our own vision on how to route the collective efforts of the Spanish civil society, applicable to European and global context. Thus, we are convinced that the momentum of female leadership in any field or economic aspect is key for building a decent professional environment and according to the worth of women also provides an horizon of sustainable growth and a transformation of business system with clear influence on society and communities where these companies operate.

Having more women in corporate management bodies, according to various studies and our own experience, is synonymous of profitability, productivity and greater wealth redistribution. Likewise, this feminine critical mass in our leadership is an added control to compliance with fiscal and legal obligations of business entities.

Therefore, we insist that governments, associations, companies or individuals must internalize the objective advantages of using instruments to correct gender inequality in their structures. The ultimate goal is an equal distribution between men and women, both positions of responsibility and decision making, and the obligations and domestic and derived childcare or greater responsibilities.

Our challenge is to build a new society. Our proposal is to empower women by ensuring that they can develop their career and job promotion without any barrier. Similarly, we are confident that women will be the best ambassadors for the new positions of power within the company to turn around and actually correcting those scenarios that prevent the normalization of female promotion to managerial positions.

Therefore, we need to implement specific plans to change the work culture of companies with concrete strategies to make a review, evaluation and consideration of the reality of work and equality within business structures. We need to improve trust and visibility. Training, social awareness and political work from civil society are three essential pillars, too, to address the solvency and depth that this transformation in the social sphere that has to be structural and plural.

Female leadership has to be represented by many women, being the most visible exceptions of powerful women, a model or example to extend, not the solution to the lack of women in these positions, in short we are more than 50% of the population and we are prepared and we can choose to different positions, diversity is synonymous with profitability and sustainability.

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Statement submitted by Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08601 (E) 180615

Please recycle

Statement

The Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals cannot ignore or avoid the dangerous gap between income and distribution of wealth in all countries, especially country leaders not working together, only focusing on marketing and ignoring the starving poor.

"Patriotism" is mixed with extreme nationalism and religious conflict. Before reaching realistic solutions, attitudinal changes must occur, that require understanding and integrating life's links influencing humanity.

Primary attention must be focused on carrying out fair policies without distractions of profit or loss in many of these countries. It's obvious that corruption and greed play a major role in undermining sustainable development. Human nature has positive and negative elements allowing for manipulation by hungry leaders for personal gain.

Present day consumerism has pushed human beings to be severely competitive consumers of goods, constantly manipulated by the market. In order to construct a more just and sustainable social order, we need a drastic change of attitude focusing on the ethical values of the stakeholders, who influence the success or failure of all the policies involved. Qualities such as: moderation, justice, trust and service must be monitored, developed and taken very seriously by all those concerned, otherwise traits of ego, greed, indifference and aggression will continue pushing current patterns of unsustainable development.

Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals must have a platform for action based on a new standard of measurement. New ideas must be characterized by prioritizing the importance of global ethics as a beginning to foster unanimity of purpose.

As an example, we are working on an action plan called "Hugging Plan" which is an international orphan and homeless children care plan, a joint public welfare alliance of public welfare events, globally drawing attention to the dreams of these children and supporting the development of more people participation internationally. We sincerely hope that enterprises and loving care personnel with a sense of social responsibility will demonstrate that the world can join into this public welfare program together, cultivating sympathy and loving hearts, the younger generation will feel the value of helping each other. Giving love and attention to orphans and homeless children, will let the warmth pass on. This kind of support will always be remembered by the whole world and one day, for example, we will see Christian and Jewish families adopt Moslem orphans, and Moslem families adopt Hindu parentless children, so that the principles of the oneness of humanity, of universal love and of motherhood will apply to all children without any form of prejudice.

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Statement submitted by Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08602 (E) 100615

Please recycle

Statement

2015 will mark a paradigm shift for the United Nations, as it will transition from the Millennium Development Goals to its new development agenda, the sustainable development goals. As we transition, we have to acknowledge that the Millennium Development Goals have marked a historic method of global mobilization to achieve a set of important social priorities worldwide. However, although some positive steps in achieving the Millennium Development Goals have been taken, progress is still lagging behind and has been highly variable across countries, especially developing ones. As a result, operationalizing a new integrated sustainable development approach requires learning from past experience and rectifying shortcomings in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in order to make the transition from the latter to the SDGs more effective.

The Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights holds that the achievement of the sustainable development goals requires that governments must ensure the active involvement of business in the implementation of the new development agenda.

Moreover, policy approaches need to be more inclusive and all local stakeholders, particularly the poor and most vulnerable should be better empowered to engage in decision-making processes. Towards this end, the appropriate legal, policy, political and more broadly institutional conditions need to be fostered through policy dialogue, advocacy and other means.

In this regard, women can play an upgraded role and act as drivers of change for sustainable development. Given that the paradigm shift towards sustainable development requires a renewed focus on people-centred development, the inherent connection of women's rights to development should be promoted. This requires involving women actively in decision-making at all levels, integrating their concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes and establishing ways to assess the impact of development policies on women. Gender equality and the empowerment of women should not merely constitute one of the proposed sustainable development goals, but it must be widely understood that they are necessary in order for sustainable development to become a reality.

Along the same lines, it is equally important to mainstream youth in the post-2015 development agenda, by, for instance, mobilizing them to pressure governments and opening the decision-making process. Moreover, the needs of the youth, such as the access to education of all levels and the fight against unemployment, should be expressly addressed by the sustainable development goals. In this context, special focus should be placed upon these needs throughout the monitoring process.

Our Foundation firmly believes that the post-2015 development agenda should follow the human rights-oriented approach. Above all, it is important to recall, that every United Nations action should have as ultimate objective of the full realization of all human rights for all persons without discrimination.

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Statement submitted by International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08603 (E) 180615

Please recycle

Statement

Although more people than ever have access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving universal access to treatment has not been met. Governments must recognize the important role AIDS responses have had on improving health systems and gains in other health and broader Millennium Development Goals, including improvements in maternal and child health, and the continued need to invest in integrated responses and strengthening health and community systems.

The post-2015 development framework must include a strong commitment to ending AIDS, including indicators that address mortality, incidence and achieving zero discrimination. The sustainable development goals, including the health goal must have at their core to leave no one behind, address inequality and the social determinants of health.

Promoting and protecting the human rights of all people, ending stigma and discrimination, and promoting equality must be central principles of all post-2015 development goals. Governments must ensure an evidence-based, human rights approach in all HIV programs and policies to ensure protection of the human right of all people to be free from stigma, discrimination and all types of violence.

Universal access to HIV services can never be achieved if groups most affected by HIV such as women and girls, men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, young people, transgender people and people living with HIV are discriminated against, stigmatized or criminalized.

Discrimination, violence and abuses against and criminalization of these groups continue to fuel the epidemic and hinder efforts to achieve universal access. Not addressing this forcefully in the post-2015 outcome document will result in the resurgence of HIV, impacting on all development goals. Ending AIDS requires promoting strategic investment in HIV programming with key populations. Governments and donors must base their programming and funding allocation on epidemiological data, evidence of what is most effective, and human rights.

Governments must ensure that all people can fully realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights. To achieve this, all people must have access to comprehensive care, treatment, and services that are integrated, evidence-based, high quality, age-appropriate, free of charge, and based in human rights. Recognizing that women and girls are at greater risk of sexual transmission of HIV than men and boys for both physiological and socially constructed reasons, and recognizing that access to sexual and reproductive health services is associated with lower rates of HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights must be fully integrated within HIV programming.

Governments must recognize the impact that AIDS has on children, including the need to mobilize programs to ensure the elimination of pediatric HIV and AIDS and for a multi-sectoral community-based response to protect orphans and other vulnerable children. Governments must therefore ensure that no one will be left behind and address all factors of marginalization, including social inequality and inequality based on gender, gender identity and sexual orientation.